

JUDICIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

NAME	PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE	SCOPE OF ACTIVITY
Legislative Committee	Protect and promote the Judiciary’s interests regarding new laws and initiatives. Defend and/or advance the Judiciary’s interests by determining and implementing the most effective strategy for doing so given the political climate and other factors impacting the current landscape. Committee members rely on collective institutional knowledge, history, and political experience.	Review and analyze legal and policy implications and how they affect the Judiciary. Serve as a clearinghouse for all legislation. Advise the Chief Judges and Judicial Council on legislative issues. Review pending legislation. Review internally generated requests for new legislation and present to the Judicial Council.
Court Operations and Technology Committee	Ensure the technology operations of the Judiciary are efficient and effective. Provide advice and guidance regarding the implementation of technology and its effect on judicial operations/functions.	Solicit advice from the technology experts within the Judiciary regarding all major information technology projects. Direct the evaluation of major information technology projects. Make recommendations regarding technology and assist in setting priorities.
Domestic Law Committee	Provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding family domestic law, including domestic violence. Recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of domestic law.	Review all policies, rules and legislation regarding family domestic matters to include areas such as adult guardianship, domestic violence, custody, and child support. Make recommendations regarding the same. Review systemic issues regarding domestic law and make recommendations for improvement. Collaborate with justice partners to ensure a holistic approach to the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives involving domestic matters. Oversee the review and update of the Domestic Violence Manual and other Judiciary publications and forms related to domestic law.
Juvenile Law Committee	Provide guidance and direction regarding policies, rules, and legislation surrounding juvenile law, including juvenile justice and child welfare. Recommend policies, rules, and legislation that improve the effective administration of juvenile law.	Review all policies, rules and legislation regarding juvenile matters. Make recommendations regarding the same. Review systemic issues regarding juvenile law and make recommendations for improvement. Collaborate with justice partners to ensure a holistic approach to the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives involving juvenile matters. Oversee the review and update of all Judiciary publications and forms related to juvenile law.
Court Access and Community Relations Committee	Address barriers to access to the courts and legal services in Maryland. Strengthen public awareness of Judiciary programs, projects, services, and initiatives. Promote knowledge and understanding of the Judiciary.	Oversee the expansion of opportunities for greater access to the judicial system through increased funding, improved planning, and coordination in legal service delivery, expanded interpretation services, and reduced barriers to access. Ensure increased knowledge and understanding of the Judiciary through various means, such as publications, community/school partnerships, and speakers’ bureau engagements. Strengthen the public’s trust and confidence in the Judiciary through initiatives that heighten public awareness, as well as transparency

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		through means such as access to court records with improved court reporting policies and procedures.
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee	Promote the use of appropriate dispute resolution processes throughout the courts. Provide an avenue for courts to vet change to court alternative dispute resolution rules and standards of conduct.	Review and make recommendations to alternative dispute resolution rules. Monitor pending legislation that potentially could impact alternative dispute resolution programs and services. Respond to legislative inquiries in coordination with the Office of Government Relations. Oversee the development and implementation of alternative dispute resolution programs and processes in the courts. Oversee revisions to the standards of conduct for mediators, as well as other publications that govern alternative dispute resolution in the courts.
Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee	Promote and oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets in the courts.	Ensure the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets, in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism, business and technology, and science and technology. Monitor and direct the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, funding and support for specialty courts and special dockets.
Retired/Retired Judges Committee	Advise the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and other members of the Court on matters relevant to retired/recalled judges.	Monitor changes to laws, rules, and policies that impact retired/recalled judges. Ensure retired/recalled judges are apprised of those changes and that they receive the requisite training to effectively address the same. Ensure retired/recalled judges receive the tools necessary to perform their duties.

Conferences:

- Conference of Circuit Judges
- Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
- Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
- Conference of Orphans’ Court Judges
- Conference of Maryland Court Library Directors